IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 28 as follows:

~~Fig. 1~~ The Figure shows the boundary lines for starting-gas compositions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 as follows:

The $NH_3/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio is adjusted as a function of the $O_2/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio. The Figure [[1]] shows the boundary lines for a starting gas composition wherein **a** is the lower explosion limit for NH_3-CH_4 mixture (1:1), **b** is the upper explosion limit for NH_3-CH_4 mixture (1:1), **c** is the line for air-CH_4-NH_3 mixtures, • are the operating points according to the Examples, **G1** is the boundary line $\mathbf{Y} = m\mathbf{X} + a$, with m = 1.25, a = -0.12, **G2** is the boundary line $\mathbf{Y} = m\mathbf{X} + a$, with m = 1.40, a = -0.08, **Y** is the $NH_3/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio and **X** is the $O_2/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 29 as follows:

The composition of the starting-gas mixture then lies in a concentration band defined by the following two lines as shown in ~~Fig. 1~~ the Figure:

$Y = 1.25X - 0.12$ and $Y = 1.40X - 0.08$

where:

$Y = NH_3/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio

$X = O_2/(O_2 + N_2)$ molar ratio

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24 as follows:

In one series of experiments, and starting from a mode of operation corresponding to the known operating conditions with air as oxygen source, atmospheric oxygen was progressively replaced by pure oxygen and at the same time the O_2/NH_3 molar ratio was

reduced while maintaining the CH_4/NH_3 ratio constant. All experiments were performed with a constant starting-gas volume flow of 24 l/min (NTP). Table [[1]] 2 shows a selection of representative results.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 1-2, as follows:

Table [[1]] 2 Experimental results of enrichment with O_2 in the starting gas

(d_i: 25 mm, starting-gas volume flow V'_F: 24 Nl/min, starting-gas temperature T_F: 60°C)